68th Legislature 2023 LC 4442

1	JOINT RESOLUTION NO
2	INTRODUCED BY
3	(Primary Sponsor)
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING PLAN TO THE
6	MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION.
7	
8	WHEREAS, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission submitted its legislative
9	redistricting plan to the Legislature on January 6, 2023, as required by Article V, section 14, of the Montana
10	Constitution; and
11	WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution requires the Commission to submit a proposed plan to the
12	Legislature for recommendations to alter the proposal; and
13	WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution mandates that districts must be as equal in population as is
14	practicable and be compact and contiguous; and
15	WHEREAS, the Commission established a maximum average standard deviation of plus or minus 1%,
16	which surpasses the standards of the 2013 Commission, which maintained a standard deviation of 3%; and
17	WHEREAS, the Commission formed districts that successfully comply with all requirements of the
18	federal Voting Rights Act and that protect the voting rights of minority populations; and
19	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Commission's tentative map does not meet Montana's state
20	constitutional mandate of compactness in urban areas in Missoula County, Lewis and Clark County, and
21	Gallatin County; and
22	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Commission's tentative map does follow its own criterion for
23	functional compactness in several areas around the state; and
24	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to minimize the splitting of
25	municipalities whenever possible, such as the city of Whitefish; and
26	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to consider
27	competitiveness of proposed districts; and
28	WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its mandatory criterion for keeping

- 1 -



LC 4442

68th Legislature 2023 LC 4442

1	communities	of	interest	whole:	and
---	-------------	----	----------	--------	-----

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not apply its criterion consistently when drawing legislative districts; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to keep communities of interest intact when pairing House districts into Senate districts, including in Flathead County and districts in Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, and Jefferson Counties.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

16

17

18

19

20

4

5

6

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislature exercises its constitutional role of recommendation to urge the passage of amendments necessary for the Legislative Redistricting Plan to conform to the Commission's established criteria. To this end, the Legislature recommends that the Commission consider the following amendments:

- (1) redraw as necessary to keep cities intact;
- 14 (2) redraw noncompact districts while also following the Commission's criterion of looking at district 15 competitiveness; and
 - (3) keep established communities of interest intact by reconfiguring House pairings to Senate seats.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be kept on file with the Secretary of State and that copies be sent by the Secretary of State to the presiding officer and each member of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission.

21 - END -



- 2 - LC 4442